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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Sustainable development

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 28 April 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Canada, Peru and the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Governments of Peru, Canada and the Republic of Korea, we have the honour to submit to you the enclosed summary of key messages for recommended actions (see annex). This summary is the outcome of a global event entitled "Dialogue on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda: participatory monitoring for accountability", which was organized by the above-mentioned countries on 12 and 13 March 2015 in Lima.

The outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 emphasized the need for an inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda. As a follow-up to that recommendation, a second phase of global consultations was launched by the United Nations in 2014 to determine how the "means of implementation" should feature in the new global framework. A series of dialogues were undertaken, on themes including: Localizing the post-2015 agenda; Helping to strengthen capacities and build effective institutions; Participatory monitoring for accountability; Partnerships with civil society; Engaging with the private sector; and Culture and development.

The Governments of Peru, Canada and the Republic of Korea co-led the global consultation on "Participatory monitoring for accountability". Nine countries held national consultations on this issue, namely Albania, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Kosovo, Montenegro, Peru, Thailand, Viet Nam and Zambia. The consultations involved dialogue at the national and local levels with policymakers, civil society, academia, communities, women, indigenous people, minorities and children, among others. The results of the consultations were shared in Lima and served as an

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important reminder of the many good examples of participatory monitoring mechanisms in practice around the world.

We would like to inform you that our respective Governments will also share the summary with the co-facilitators of the post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations in the lead-up to the negotiating session on follow-up and review in May, as well as with the President of the Economic and Social Council, in preparation for the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in June and July.

The Governments of Canada, the Republic of Korea and Peru would be grateful if the present letter and the attached summary could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13, 19 and 115.

(*Signed*) Guillermo E. **Rishchynski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Joon **Oh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 28 April 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Canada, Peru and the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Global dialogue on implementation of the post-2015 development agenda: participatory monitoring for accountability

Summary of key messages for recommended actions

I. Background

Encouraging an inclusive dialogue on the post-2015 agenda is a mandate given to the United Nations by Member States. The outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda emphasized the need for an inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda and has led to a series of consultations with different stakeholders. One such consultation has been on participatory monitoring for accountability, co-sponsored by the Governments of Peru, Canada and the Republic of Korea.

The global event that took place in Lima on 12 and 13 March 2015 was the culmination of the year-long consultative process. It aimed to showcase examples of good practice in participatory monitoring for accountability, particularly at the country level, and to facilitate dialogue among participating States on the topic. Results of the national consultation processes and experiences[a] were shared publicly along with the evidence gathered through regional and global initiatives. The event has served to validate the findings and to formulate recommendations for a way forward in participatory monitoring for accountability within the post-2015 development agenda (especially in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 17). The meeting brought together representatives of Governments, civil society and the media as well as the United Nations and other international organizations.

There is growing demand from Member States for pragmatic proposals on how to make the post-2015 development agenda work. Means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals are becoming increasingly central to the debate. A follow-up and review mechanism under the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development is envisioned as one of the indispensable accountability components for the agenda.

II. Introduction

A major issue on participatory monitoring for accountability to be addressed is how the post-2015 development agenda can best be adapted to serve people in terms of the complex and diverse realities they confront in their daily lives. An approach to participatory monitoring for accountability that is rooted in human rights principles, in line with national and international commitments, should be considered as a key supportive element for effective implementation and the follow-up and review framework for the new agenda.

[a] Albania, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Kosovo, Montenegro, Peru, Thailand, Viet Nam and Zambia carried out national consultations on participatory monitoring for accountability, while relevant experiences of other countries were shared.

Participatory monitoring for accountability empowers people in the development process to articulate their priorities and have greater engagement in decisions that affect their lives. It also provides people with tools to hold duty bearers to account for delivery and performance in both the public and private sectors. Of particular interest to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, participatory monitoring for accountability can also provide concrete information for evidence-based decision-making processes from the local and national to the global level.

Participatory monitoring for accountability encourages responsible collaboration between people and their Government, and can promote social inclusion and equality, especially for those whose voices are not heard and excluded groups. Such efforts will have greater impact if Governments encourage and promote the participation of their citizens, particularly the poorest and excluded.

Openness and transparency in policymaking, setting of budgets and use of public funds are key elements for building greater trust and increasing valuable and informed public input into these processes. Participation and transparency contribute to more effective spending, leading to improved outcomes, but transparency alone is insufficient without accountability. Participatory monitoring for accountability must be an explicit element of the means of implementation and follow-up and review mechanisms of the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. Key messages for recommended actions resulting from the consultation process

People must be placed at the centre of sustainable development. Participation and people-centred development processes should therefore be at the heart of implementing the post-2015 development agenda. Participatory monitoring for accountability must be inclusive of all people as rights holders and it is particularly critical to strengthen the voice and influence of women, as well as those who are often excluded from these processes, including girls and boys, youth, minorities, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, people living in poverty and other excluded groups. When people are included, outcomes are better and accountability leads to better allocation of resources and sustainable development results.

- Participatory monitoring for accountability practices directly contribute to strengthening human rights. Participatory monitoring supports development processes and, through its practice, results are owned by the rights holders, with all involved parties working together to reach goals and targets. It is also important for more informed development decision-making resulting in programmes and initiatives that are more effective, efficient and have better results.

- Participatory monitoring for accountability should be grounded in an enabling environment that is conducive to and includes open government; strong institutional oversight and transparency; robust national approaches supporting participatory practices and mechanisms that embrace cultural diversity; and policies that promote a culture of participation among all social groups.

- Involving civil society in policymaking and budget decisions is relevant for national planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It promotes good management, consensus-building and trust between authorities

and society, and it makes possible the coordination of their monitoring and accountability efforts.

- Monitoring government budget allocations and spending on the Sustainable Development Goals is an effective means of implementation. Likewise, budget monitoring, transparency, reporting and audit are crucial to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda is adequately funded and achieves its goals.

- Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will require mobilizing additional resources to address financing needs in underfunded priority areas with the greatest impacts for the poor. Therefore, financing for development is crucial to implement the Goals and operationalize participatory monitoring for accountability approaches. There is a need for transparent and inclusive accountability and budgetary systems that ensure full participation of citizens.

- Local development solutions and good participatory practices should be scaled up where appropriate and featured more prominently in the post-2015 development agenda. The national consultations on participatory monitoring for accountability also illustrated that successful local practices need to be adapted before scaling-up to the national level, and national experiences may require flexibility and to be adapted for local context.

- More space should be created for civil society organizations, grassroots and local organizations to participate meaningfully in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the post-2015 development agenda. This should include women's and children's organizations as well as individuals of all ages. It is particularly critical to strengthen women's and children's voices and influence in monitoring and accountability mechanisms, as well as other groups who are often excluded from these processes.

- People-led monitoring can change the dynamics and direction of accountability and bring in new voices and ideas about what is working, where and why. And — if things are not working — what is needed to change course. The use of information and communications technology should be promoted in participatory mechanisms, in particular to engage the most marginalized groups in monitoring and accountability.

- The post-2015 development agenda requires that citizens have access to relevant information in language and formats that they can understand and use. Therefore, participatory monitoring for accountability requires transparent, timely and relevant data, including budget information that should be disaggregated by sex, age, income, geographic location and other dimensions of inequality as required for monitoring progress beyond national averages. This requires strengthening investments in national statistical capacity. Administrative data such as civil registration and vital statistics are a critical part of strengthening country-level monitoring and accountability, as they support demographic/population analysis and contribute to results tracking and reporting across a number of sectors.

- The media and other communications channels can be valuable partners to government and civil society actors in order to encourage participation, transparency and accountability in development, as they are well placed to inform and raise awareness regarding initiatives on participatory monitoring for accountability among the public.